

Proposed Motion Regarding the Extension of Dining Districts

General Correspondence – Revised Agenda

Hello,

I hope you are well.

I'm writing because I would like to see the Dining District remain open later into the season. I believe that this is in the best interest of downtown businesses who have effectively maintained safety precautions over the past few months.

Thank you and stay well,

Kearney Coupland

At the request of brothers brewing on social media I am writing you to petition

AGAINST the extension of the downtown dining district.

Enough is enough.

Ian Conlon

As a proud citizen of Guelph I wanted to express how much my family and I have enjoyed the Guelph Downtown Dining District. 2020 has been a very difficult year and COVID -19 has changed our lives over the last 6-7 months. The Downtown Dining District has brought optimism to the Guelph community, and it's brought back jobs for many and it is giving restaurants a chance to Operate and survive during these very uncertain times. Let's save and keep the Guelph Downtown Dining District a vibrant and successful place for all Guelph citizens to enjoy, along with keeping a strong local economy in play, particularly for those employed within the Guelph Downtown Dining District.

David Bolzon

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing you as an employee of one of the establishments in the downtown dining district in Guelph. We got the news yesterday that the road will be reopening on the 22nd of September with the potential of the sidewalk patios being allowed to stay until the end of October (but could be taken away with 48 hours notice)

With Covid cases on the rise, please reconsider this choice. The amount of tourism these patios have brought to Guelph alone is amazing. On a consistent basis we hear "wow guelph is awesome for doing this" or "I hope this stays this way" or "they should do this every summer".

Lead the way in safe dining. Don't make us go inside where the probably of infection rate increase significantly - especially for servers like myself who do not feel safe with multiple patrons inside without masks.

Please reconsider.

Thanks for your time,

Mina Schofield

I fully support the Downtown Dinning District street shutdown until January 1st 2021. It will continue to help many businesses as well as keep people more spread out and able to practice social distancing.

Liam Laing

Please please please save the dinning district. It has saved my business and is full of opportunities to let downtown flourish during what is certain to be a tough fall and winter.

Colton Proveau

Owner/Partner

Brothers Brewing Company

I am contacting you to express my support of Cam Guthrie and his decision to call a emergency meeting to have a vote to prolong the downtown district shutdown. Like most of the businesses downtown my employer is very dependent on the patio extension to make ends meet. I believe that we should keep the Macdonell/Wyndham intersection closed until patios are not usable because of the cold weather. Why shut it down now and have these businesses lose tons of money when there are still citizens supporting them? Businesses have invested in heaters to keep customers warm and able to keep higher capacity and have more space to provide adequate room for social distancing.

Please consider that this decision has a lot of weight for everyone invested in the downtown business association.

Desmond Hembrey

I believe we should be keeping this "Dining District" downtown even past the events of covid. This allows for a wonderful experience in the downtown area as well as attracting other foot traffic to local shops and restaurants.

Shawn Coates

I am a Guelph resident as well the President of the Rotary Club of Guelph. I understand that there is some doubt about extending the hours for the outdoor dining downtown Guelph. You must extend the date! My family dines down there regularly not necessary just because we love the food (which we do) but because we are supporting the amazing business and staff that are providing us wonderful service and experiences. Please I urge you to extend the date for as long as possible for the citizens, business owners and staff of all of the restaurants downtown. We are not comfortable dining inside yet so this will devastate the community if you shut it down too early.

Tracey Curtis

Please vote to extend the Open Streets for Restaurant initiative for as long as possible.

Jason P. Evans

Hello City of Guelph. Please accept this email as a show of support for outdoor dining downtown. My husband and I are both leery of dining indoors still, and would like to continue to support our restaurants downtown in their outdoor dining spaces.

Please reconsider the extension to outdoor dining and road closures in downtown Guelph.

Barbara Reid

To whom it may concern,

Please save the downtown dining district!

These amazing dining locations are a large part of what makes Guelph such a great city to live in and the dining district is one small way that the city can help support these amazing businesses.

Sincerely,

A concerned citizen

Jessica Sorenson

Hello there,

As a resident of The Junction who frequents the downtown core 3-5 times a week (sometimes by active transportation, sometimes by car), I can't tell you how happy it makes me to see the transformation that's happened at Wyndham and MacDonnell.

I urge City Staff and our elected officials to not just extend the permits but actively begin to look at ways to make this fixture permanent and capable of hosting outdoor events and patrons 12 months a year be it rain, shine, or snow.

We have an unprecedented opportunity to do something *truly* unique and momentous for the people and businesses of Guelph. I have no doubt other municipalities will follow suit.

Cheers,

Andrew P. Donovan

Pleas vote in favour of saving the downtown dining district #guelph #dining #downtown

Suat Aydoner

Good afternoon,

I would like to voice my opinion in favour of extending the downtown dining district. Over the course of the summer, I have frequented the dining district as a means of returning to some level of normalcy from the disruption of the pandemic.

Now with Covid numbers beginning to rise and winter on the horizon, I feel extending this initiative will allow more people to safely support local business while the weather permits.

Thank you,

Erica Oliver

Good Afternoon,

I am writing in support of continuing to allow the Downtown Dining District for as long as weather and the safety of others can be maintained. It is important that we provide as much opportunity for downtown business to gain revenue and for employees to maintain employment.

I support as long as:

1. Weather allows;
2. Public Health safety recommendations are followed, especially in terms of COVID-19;
3. Any downtown city infrastructure needing maintenance is not needed immediately and can be pushed until 2021;
4. A review of transit detours is done in order to increase efficiency for buses impeded by the DDD, and whether changes to route(s) could be made this fall or for next year (by chance the DDD is still required).

I do not work downtown or have family that work downtown but I support those in our community being able to make a dollar while it's incredibly hard to do so.

Thank you

Adam MacIntyre

To whom it may concern,

I am emailing in support of extending the downtown dining district past the deadline date. I have been a Guelph resident for the last 8 years and in my time in Guelph, being able to enjoy the downtown core has been one of the most memorable experiences thus far. Other experiences involving the raptors square at city hall, kazoo fest have all been memorable and felt like they've really brought the community together. Even more so at a time, this is why it's really needed. Being able to bring the community together and save jobs while still adhering to social distancing guidelines is important. Furthermore I know many community members

who's livelihood has been saved as a results of their jobs being brought back as well as various businesses who just might be able to survive the impacts of the pandemic as a result of the decision to create a situation where they can operate in a safe manner.

It is imperative that city council makes the right decision to keep the downtown district open and not destroy a 100 jobs and various businesses chances of survival.

Thanks

Olamipo Ogunnote

Please reconsider the decision to end the downtown dining district.

Nick Bowie

I am 100% in support of the extension of the downtown dining district until Jan 1st!!!! Guelph needs this and the people want it!!!!

-Stephanie McCrone

Hi,

I am in full support of extending the Dining District and Patio Program for as long as possible. This is a great initiative for our City!

ThankS!

Cheers,

Dave Durbin

I was very shocked to learn that despite the resounding success of the pedestrian downtown, there is plan to end it. I'm writing to support the extension.

Paul Obermeyer

Please extend the downtown outdoor dining!!!! Many of the businesses have gotten heaters, and can extend the patio season - given what's going on with covid it only

makes sense to allow longer for the outdoor patios downtown! They are fabulous, and to be honest I wish they were always like that!!!

Marianne Thompson

To whom it may concern,

For the special meeting this coming Monday, I would like to put my word in for keeping the district going as long as the restaurants are willing to be diligent in keeping patrons safe during these unprecedented times.

I feel for these business owners who have seen their business beat up to no fault of their own.

Que the great city of Guelph to create the downtown dining district and bingo a wonderful success! My wife and I have been down several times and it is wonderful, perhaps the best part is meeting people from all over Ontario saying that they just wanted to stop in and see what it is all about and how much they loved it!

Surely any repairs or maintenance can temporarily be put on hold to help our Guelph restaurant owners stretch this opportunity to keep their business afloat.

Please hear my support to keep this great thing going.

Thankyou,

Dean Bower

Guelphite

To whom it may concern-

Well this concerns MANY folks. I have recently learned that council has rejected the plan to extend the downtown dining district. This makes no sense to me. Our local businesses need all the help they can possibly get now and for the foreseeable future. This rejection just kicks them when they are already down. Weather will by itself dictate the length of the season.

Please rethink this decision.

Thank you,

Ann Tobin

Please make every effort possible to help and safeguard the restaurants downtown that make our city vibrant and unique!

Tiffany Sheehan

Open the street please. Keep the patios open. But smaller

Mark Russell

I am strongly in favour of continued outside patio dining in the city of Guelph. I feel it is safer, particularly with the potential for a second wave of Covid, and it will keep people employed. ...Mary Coupland

I am writing to you to show my support for continuing the Downtown Dining District for as long as it is feasible.

Although I do visit grocery stores and pharmacies in person, I have avoided most of the social environments that stage 3 of the Provincial reopening allow (i.e. indoor dining/bars, gyms, movie theatres, extended family gatherings, etc.) I am a high school teacher, and staying healthy so that I can be back in the classroom with my students has been of utmost importance over the summer and fall.

It has been wonderful to be able to occasionally go to a patio with my husband and enjoy a meal out. It has been a small piece of normalcy in an otherwise difficult year. For this reason, I am hopeful that we can maintain the dining district for as long as possible. I am also very excited about the possibility of an Outdoor Christmas market. These outdoor opportunities will allow businesses to continue to earn money past the summer season and provide a safer alternative to indoor shopping and dining.

I would also ask Council to consider how to best ensure full accessibility to these outdoor venues, particularly during the proposed Christmas Market. As the weather gets colder and we start to deal with snow, it is vital that we do whatever we can to ensure that all residents of Guelph can enjoy these ventures.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Alison Hunter Stewart

I suppose extending the Downtown Dining District season!

Andrea Smallwood

I am in full support of keeping the downtown dining district open. It has allowed for local businesses, entrepreneurs and employees thrive during this awful year. We need to provide as much support as we can to the businesses that make Guelph as special as it is. And more then 100 locals will lose their jobs if this happens.

Andria Suderman

I am in support of extending the outside dining areas in Guelphs downtown.

Jacquie Rodden Yetman

To whom it may concern:

While I was initially concerned with the speed with which the decisions on the dining district were being made, after some initial bumps it appears that the concept has been quite successful, to the point that the business in the downtown have been able to survive (not necessarily thrive) during the pandemic.

I am not yet willing to go inside to enjoy the dining experiences available, so using the patio or buying take out are my only options at this time.

By not extending the "experiment" of the outside patio expansions until the last possible moment, I think there will be unnecessary hardship on those very businesses this was intended to help, and appears did help. There will be staff layoffs aplenty, and of course revenues will drop yet again with no rent relief or other support in sight to offset. We are already losing some long established businesses; let's not accelerate this.

I am not clear if this is a council issue or simply a staff level concern, but I would like to ensure that my voice is heard in that I support keeping these patios open as long as possible; winter will come soon enough and the downtown businesses will face this problem again in a month or so but that will be at least another month with revenue and employed staff.

Mark Kaczmarczyk

Hello,

This is a note to express my hope that the Guelph dining district will continue for as long as possible. It has been a great joy during this dark time

Sincerely,

Lindsay Cox

Good day

Want to let you know that I think we should keep the Downtown Dining District going as long as is possible. We need to keep people employed and I know there are a lot of people (myself included) who are not ready for indoor dining, so this is a good option. As long as the servers feel safe doing so, I say let's keep it going.

Thank you for listening.

Karen Sweigard

Hi I just wanted to send a quick email saying that I support the downtown dining district. Please let it run a little longer.

Thanks,

Valerie Tacoma

I am in favour of saving the downtown dining district. They should be allowed to extend patio season.

Warmest regards

Shanna Durski

Hello,

I just wanted to write a quick letter of support to keep the downtown dining district open as long as the weather permits or as long as possible.

I can understand there are differing opinions and legitimate reasons on both sides to have it stay open or close but I think it ultimately has proven to be beneficial to

our downtown businesses who have been struggling through this pandemic. Our community needs this!

Hoping the outcome of the emergency meeting on Monday will allow it to stay open!

Thank you!

Lindsay Brydges

Hello,

I would like city council to save the dining district in Guelph. It's a core piece of what makes this city so special. Without it we have a bunch of empty buildings and streets. The city will not be the same!!

Michelle Engelhardt

Guelph resident

I have few ideas for the Dining District for the Winter

- 1.) Ice Sculpture Competition!
- 2.) Turn the top of Macdonell Street into a snow hill for sledding.
- 3.) Put a giant Christmas Tree downtown every hour reenact "Fahoo Fores Dahoo Does" from the Grinch Who Stole Christmas.
- 4.) Have social distanced Snowman Building Contest.

Thanks,

Ryan Fairborn

Dear Guelph City Hall

Please accept this email as support for continuing and securing Guelph's Downtown Dining District as per the Mayor's motion until January 2021.

Thank you for acknowledging this email and listening to your citizens.

Respectfully,

Nancy Revie

in FAVOUR of Dining District

It is an asset to the city!!!!

Rochelle Ryan

Dear City Council,

I am extremely disheartened to hear of the rejection to extend outdoor downtown dining throughout the fall (and hopefully early winter). There are plenty of other sections of town that could be focused on for road repairs if that is deemed important. However, this year of all years is not the time to tear up roads in the downtown corridor.

Downtown businesses are struggling to make it. People are increasingly going to need outdoor places to socialize as the weather gets colder. If you fail to provide safe options, people will meet indoors, COVID numbers will spike, and mental health of community members will plummet. We need chances for connection, to support our local businesses.

Invest in heat lamps right now, not massive road repair. Please, we beg of you!!!

Sincerely,

Janet Doner

Hi City Of Guelph,

I am requesting that Guelph's Dinning District extend until thanksgiving weekend.

With the pleasant weather and the inevitable return to quarantine I really want to enjoy the next few weeks dinning out.

By extending the Dinning District event to October it will allow Guelphites to enjoy themselves for a little while longer and it will help save employees from job loss.

Livia Pellegrino

Hi there! I bet your inbox is full. That's why I'll only take a minute of your time to show my support of the dining district in Guelph remaining OPEN.

I am a veteran of the hospitality industry, working in large scale events, visitors convention bureaus, and destination management companies. The 'dining district' of Guelph is something I often brag about to friends, peers and family.

The Distillery District in Toronto opens in the winter, and I think this is a great model for the city of Guelph to think about. I've lived here now for one year - moving for a job, and having absolutely fallen in love with this city.

The dining district is what makes Guelph what it is. Imagine a place where people could have a glass of wine, in their parkas, by a campfire, on Wyndam St. in December? Wouldn't that be wonderful for our shops and restaurants and general sense of place?

I think it would be an absolute pride point. Please give our merchants and restaurants the basic tools that they need to survive.

Warmly,

Gillian Kilpatrick

Please save the dining district! I love coming down to the patio area for food and drinks. Even if I only grab a drink on the patio, I will often purchase a meal from a nearby business to bring home with me. I wouldn't come downtown to do that otherwise.

I also worry about all of the jobs that will be lost when that doesn't have to be the case.

Keep it as long possible.

Allanah Perissinotto

I agree with Mayor Guthrie's motions to keep dining district open.

Garry Wallace

Dear Guelph City Hall

Please accept this email as support for continuing and securing Guelph's Downtown Dining District in an extended manner as per the Mayor's motion.

Thank you for acknowledging this email and listening to your citizens.

Respectfully,

Peter Revie

To Whom it may concern,

Please continue to keep the dining district downtown, it's important to our community to keep that open as long as possible.

Thank you.

Amanda Lawson

Save downtown dining district

Amazing thing for downtown Guelph. Fosters community and helps local businesses!!!

Morgan Kwiatkowski

Please ensure that council votes to continue this amazing initiative!!

Thank you

Steve davidson

I am in favour of SAVING the Downtown Dining District.

I would love it to stay till January 2020!!

Sam Scott

PLEASE CONTINUE to support your downtown restaurants and allow them to keep the downtown restaurants open for the foreseeable future. There are also a lot of jobs at risk.

It is quite nice to be in the downtown areas with no cars in the area. So peaceful.

Thank you

Brenda and Dan

We support keeping the DDD open until January! We don't drink, but we make sure and go down for multiple lunches a week to support these owners and staff!!! Please do the right thing and keep it open. In January let's hope a vaccine is circulating and the end is in sight!

Respectfully,

Jim and Tracy Turow

I am a south end resident and 16 year Guelph resident. My husband is a lifelong Guelphite. We want the city to support every restaurant in every possible way. Give restaurants and all businesses the best chance to create income and maintain jobs as much as possible to stay in business. Extend the dining district please. Allows restaurants to extend into parking lots across the city. I have travelled to European cities in the winter...winter markets are an amazing way to keep social opportunities, community, shopping, food with physical distancing. It can be done and the citizens will support it.

Michelle & Kevin Reid

To who it may concern,

I want to express my concern and to ask that the dining district patios stay open. These have been a wonderful outlet in these recent months that have helped make life a little more bright, and has allowed us to connect with friends in a safe and fabulous environment. The businesses downtown that participate have been doing a wonderful job at keeping things safe during COVID with easy access to sanitation and clean environments for guest.

From a business standpoint, this opportunity has been crucial, and speaking for myself and others, having the patio open has made us engage with local business more than ever. In order to keep local business afloat, we need to keep them open!

Keep the patio open! It's fabulous, they've been doing great, and it's good for visitors and businesses alike.

All the best,

Connor Fullerton

Hi there,

I am in favor of extending the patio season in downtown Guelph. I am a server and will lose my job among many others if they close.

Kind regards,

Sophia Tsonis

Hello John Regan, Mayor Cam Guthrie, and the City Council,

I write this email to support extending the temporary patios and dining districts in Downtown Guelph.

As we have all witnessed over the past 9 months, Covid-19 has taken so many from our communities across the globe, whether it's our loved ones, our small, local businesses, or our plans to enjoy what 2020 was supposed to bring. While we may not have our lives pre-Covid-19 back so soon, we can at least try to meet the middle ground in supporting our communities while keeping ourselves safe.

By having the temporary patios and dining districts, not only can we give the 17 downtown restaurants better support with more safe seating options, we create a welcoming downtown where people can enjoy the streets without worrying about cars, a la European style. Should the people be forced to dine inside or skip the restaurants all together, we can see the loss of businesses, employment, and mental health, as well as struggling to battle against Covid-19.

Please consider extending the patios and districts for Guelph to enjoy. If such a decision is made, please consider the idea of the city sourcing and funding patio heaters for the colder months awaiting us.

On behalf of myself, my household of 3 other students studying in Guelph, and my partner who loves the downtown now, we strongly support the extension.

- Dar'ya Heyko

Hello,

As a long standing resident of Guelph I would like to encourage council and staff to keep the downtown outdoor dining district open though the fall and winter and possibly beyond. If maintenance is required it should be planned around business hours and only the minimum required jobs should be completed. Clearing storm

water channels of course but spraying paint lines doesn't seem priority. That said, it would not take long and could be phased over days.

We are in the middle of the unknown and as a business owner I sympathize with any restaurant trying to survive and keep staff employed. Eating inside is not something I or my family want to do during a pandemic. Eating distantly outside is.

This is an opportunity for Guelph to shine. Perhaps local businesses can sponsor warming stations to cover the cost. I would be willing to contribute to this in order to help our downtown core prosper, or in this unusual situation, survive.

Regards,

Terry Ellery

Please keep the downtown streets closed!

We love walking around down there!

Jesse Lloyd

I support the singing districts. Its important for them to stay open so hundreds of people dont lose their jobs :(if the mall and other retail places can stay open then they should too!

Thank you.

Brooke Jonsson

Hello! Emailing to give my support to the petition!

Not sure what else to do I hope this is it!

Cheers to ya,

Fiona Nielen

Recently I had lunch at the Vienna restaurant, Guelph's oldest restaurant. On that section of Macdonell cars are allowed and patios exist on the sidewalk. Yet just down the street on the corner cars are not allowed and tables etc spill onto the road. It seems unfair that this long established restaurant cannot benefit from the

"dining district" simply because it's not cheek by jowl with other restaurants and bars. Similarly another long time restaurant favorite of mine, the Diana, also cannot benefit from the dining district just down the street. This is unfair. And there are many other restaurants in the downtown core that are being disadvantaged by the special treatment given to some trendy bars and eateries.

Why not treat all restaurants downtown fairly by allowing some restricted street traffic through all streets and encouraging patios and outside dining through parking restrictions etc. Let's give ALL downtown restaurants a chance to survive this pandemic. Surely a way can be found.

Betty Wickett

Hello Clerks! Please forward this email to the City staff most engaged in the decision to keep the Dining District open or closed.

I'm a Guelph resident and live in the NW part of town. My wife and I have eaten in the district only a few times but each has been a highlight of the pandemic. I have been proud of the City's ability to make the minor adjustments needed to support a handful of Guelph businesses and also give some residents a place to dine during what we will remember as a bleak time.

I urge the City to reconsider its decision to close the district for winter. We will lose many of our small businesses this year and this will include unfortunately many of the restaurants that give Guelph so much character. Imagine our downtown area without its restaurants and the potential for it to take years or decades to return to its previous vibrancy.

Please make the right decision for a handful of small business owners, for the residents of this city, and for some hope that we will see life return to normal. Don't interfere with those owners and customers that will keep the Dining District a glimmer of pride and hope for our community.

Dave Van Vliet

To whom it may concern -

I write today for my support of downtown merchants and restaurants. I am asking that council consider keeping the pedestrian mall open on the downtown streets - as long as possible - allowing for our city businesses to continue to run and to try to recoup losses they have endured during this world-wide pandemic. There are various studies available that suggest that up to 60% of restaurants and businesses will not survive the year due to hardships they've experienced as a result of shutdowns and social distancing rules. Please reconsider any decision made that

closes the street patios that were opened this past summer. It was such a creative/innovative idea by council and it allowed our city businesses to recover some losses.

Let's keep Guelph and the downtown core alive ... lets make it inviting for people to visit and support our merchants. Keep the progressive thinking moving forward. Let's keep patios open.

Yours truly,

C. McDougall

Sir, or Madam,

I'm in favour of extending the downtown traffic detours, in support of the small businesses operating there, until at least January. Grant Drohan

Please save the dining district!

Thanks for your consideration.

Kealey

Loving the downtown district open and closed to car traffic. Let's keep that vibe and keep the downtown open as it is, in fact expand to the side streets so those merchants can reap the rewards!

Guelph downtown is awesome let's keep it that way!

Kathi Wilkins

Hello, as the owner of a small business that has suffered throughout the pandemic, my heart goes out to the owners of the stores and restaurants downtown. I firmly believe that keeping the downtown dining district open for business will keep those businesses alive. I definitely am not comfortable eating indoors yet, so outdoor heated patios are going to have to be what I look for. Please pass along my thoughts to the best people to make these decisions.

Sincerely,

Kimberley Chapman

Owner, Oxford Learning Guelph

Please add this email to the stack of pro-DiningDistrict emails.

We wouldn't be comfortable sitting inside a restaurant right now. We are so pleased to be able to support Guelph restaurants and bars by eating outdoors on the newly expanded patios. It's very comfortable for a family to bring the kids (and dog) along to walk or bike into downtown and spend some time and money. We have discovered new businesses and returned to old favourites. It feels safe and secure to walk without worry of traffic.

We strongly support expanding the #DiningDistrict both in size and duration. A Christmas Market would be lovely. This is an important step in Guelph's journey to becoming a walkable city. Pedestrians and bicycles first, cars second. This is a healthy, community-friendly initiative that should become permanent.

Brad Carter
Guelph, ON

Hello,

As a business owner and an investor in Guelph, I would like to say that I would totally support the Extension of the Dining District and temporary patio program in Downtown Guelph.

We need to keep the Dining District open for as long as the Restaurants can cope and as long as they need it as a means to recover financially from the COVID closures and restrictions. The Restaurants will know if THEY can't cope anymore because of the weather. Let them form a committee to work out between themselves when it has to end.

I know that my customers, look forward to having a meal after appointments, it is good that they can.

We ALL like the opportunity to go out and have a meal, so it is simple, We ALL benefit. Let's support our restaurants. We need them.

Gratefully,
Michèle Gray

Please keep downtown dining open.

It looks beautiful at night. I enjoy it so much and it helps out local businesses.

I could picture winter months with little fire pits and table (kind of like blue mountains vibe) bringing people down. The skating and family's.

Please consider keeping it open.

Tamara Veige

To whom it may concern,

Re the situation downtown with the dining district. I am appalled that the extension of the street closure has been denied. Such a successful endeavour for small business, employees, suppliers and maintenance staff should be applauded not restricted.

That the city would encourage indoor dining, when customers would prefer to be outdoors in this time of concern, is beyond reasonable. This goes against all the science re the pandemic spread.

It appears to me that the business owners have incurred considerable expense and made the area of concern quite attractive and inviting. I have never seen Guelph's downtown so vibrant.....and isn't that what we wantto revitalize what was a ho-hum scene. I have been so pleased to see that the area was frequented by all age groups.....seniors to children.

Has any one considered the probability that our young people would congregate in private homes rather than in a supervised setting, where protocol is in place to ensure safety measures. This is a very important point when we are trying desperately to flatten the curve.

In closing, I would mention that I am very concerned to hear that the city's staff made the decision to close the area. Who is running this City? Where are our elected officials?

Respectfully yours,

Rosemary.

Extend for end of October and direct staff to work collaboratively to get the work they need to do done.

Forrest Smith

I would love to see the patios extended in the downtown area. I am also for the Christmas market idea.

It will prevent job loss, create more economic development, and provide tourism opportunities in the city. Also the atmosphere is amazing, seems to be less homeless patrolling the areas which make downtown a less inviting place to visit.

Nicole Evans

We put our support behind keeping the dining district open for as long as possible! A Christmas market would be amazing too...help the community spend money within our community in a safe and monitored way.

Thank you!

Brad and Amanda

Please please please extend the dining district. In these crazy uncertain times we need to keep businesses in business and people employed. Road work can wait. Also if there's no business to pay the taxes there won't be any revenue for road work in the future. Thanks.

Vicky Dixon

Cheers!

Extend the dining district until January 1?

What this artificial controversy says to me is the city does not seem to know how to properly undertake public policy initiatives in a methodical and consultative way. Presumably senior city staff would inform the mayor of their intention to close the area. The mayor should always be in the loop on such a public issue. So what kind of dysfunctional relationships does this reveal? Or is something else going on?

Of course pedestrianization is a great idea for downtown Guelph. But it can be done badly and be counter productive. This so-called pilot project seems quite haphazard and chaotic. There is little information on the pilot project scope and purpose. I am not sure this will give us good information on how to proceed in the future.

The city did very good work with the Downtown Secondary Plan which sets the stage for pedestrianization of the downtown. And the 2011 implementation plan had good actions identified.

But work on the downtown revitalization seemed to have ground to a halt recently, except for the Baker district redevelopment.

Then this Downtown dining district comes out of the COVID situation. The outdoor patio expansion city-wide was a great idea. But what is the process for developing the downtown pilot project, evaluating its pros and cons and using it to inform further pedestrianization work? Was there any staff groundwork done so this pilot could be evaluated properly?

Closing a major intersection to all traffic and transit seems odd as a first attempt at increasing pedestrian use. It is a major disruption to traffic and transit. I certainly don't go through that area as much as I did before. I made a point of going to local downtown restaurants, but did not dine in the outdoor dining district. I rode my bicycle through as well, but did not stop at those restaurants. Was this location chosen just to say cars were excluded?

I would have thought a section of one street would have been an easier way to start a pilot project, say a portion of MacDonnell not including the intersection. Or Carden Street or Quebec Street. Were any options looked at?

Excluding cars and transit completely is not needed. A lane each way could have been accommodated at the current location, unless there is some technical reason for not doing that.

This controversy about a Sept 21 or Jan 1 closing date seems like a symbolic controversy of little real consequence. Relatively few people will use it now that temperatures have dipped. But perhaps it is all about politics.

Downtown revitalization is such an important issue for Guelph and needs a serious commitment. I do not see that commitment, what I see appears to be a distraction.

Thanks

Paul Smith

Please keep the outdoor dining district open! We need a safe place to have SOME FORM of entertainment. Business badly needs the revenue. I would even go one step further and say allow a Christmas market of some form to happen on the downtown streets. It would make Guelph amazing!

Nancy MacKenzie

Hello

Please extend the Outdoor Dining District to Jan 1 2021 as per Mayor Guthrie's motion.

Thankyou

Karis Chester

I am definitely IN FAVOR of the downtown patios staying open as long as possible.

Thanks!

Lynn Nash

I totally support the proposed downtown patio extension

Sylvia Gazzola

I full support the patio extension downtown Guelph.

Julie Bulyovsky

Hi

I think it is so important to keep it open as long as we can. Fall is beautiful have a few heaters we wear jackets and support our community. Pls keep them open!!

Monica Massey

Hi there,

I was just emailing to say that I support the patio extension downtown Guelph. I think it is a lovely way to keep small businesses in business and I would be very disappointed seeing them go!

Thank you,

Jessica Hohenadel

Hi there,

Just wanted to send an email saying I absolutely support the patio extension for downtown Guelph - I hope it will happen!!

Cathie Coquard

Please consider keeping the Guelph Dining district open past Sept 21st to allow restaurants and business to stay open and to keep from losing jobs and more businesses. Other cities such as Waterloo, Kitchener and Cambridge will be keeping their dining districts open.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lisa Schaffer

Hello, I am fully supportive of the outside dining extension. It is such a wonderful experience in Guelph.

Kim Berdusco

Keep the dining district open downtown please

It has been a great addition to the downtown core during this pandemic and going forward it just makes sense.

Joy Chhina

Good afternoon, I am writing in support of the patio extension for downtown Guelph. This project has been very successful for businesses in Guelph and elsewhere. Perhaps road work could begin early mornings when no one uses the patio area. I am sure there could be another solution to help keep these businesses operating for a longer period of time.

Thank you,

Beverley Bulyovsky.

I support the downtown outdoor patio extension until January 1.

Thanks

Fej Neer

In reference to and to add to the letter below - City Staff/DOWNTOWN BOARD CLOSE DINNING DISTRICT.

With the City Staff's decision to decline the extension of the Guelph Downtown Dining District, the consequences are set to be devastating on many levels.

As the owners of these establishments set to lay off employees, it is extremely concerning that it appears that the City Staff are neglecting to recognize exactly who those employees are.

The short sighted views and reasons given, are self serving and neglectful. The "rise" in Covid cases have no direct link to outdoor patios, as these patios are strictly monitored and compliant with the mandated safety stipulations - they are diligent for everyone's safety and do so to ensure they are not shut down. Therefore, one might understand that the stated reason in reference to the rise in Covid cases, is false. It is being used as a scare tactic, and a cop out.

The other stated reason in regards to seasonal maintenance work, as described, is self serving and selfish. Consideration should be given to those dependant on the flow of patrons/customers to sustain their businesses, respectively, as well as, keep individuals employed as the government sets to end CERB. City staff should be mindful that most employees within these establishments get paid minimum wage with no benefits, unlike the city staff.

So, let's use the proverbial, "Where there's a will, there's a way" and figure out a different "maintenance schedule" in the instance. It is far more vital that these businesses be allowed to continue as long as they possibly can, than the city conducting seasonal maintenance work. We are in a pandemic and we all need to work together, including the City Staff.

Please show some compassion, consideration and kindness.

Ferraro,

"City Staff/DOWNTOWN BOARD CLOSE DINNING DISTRICT.

Please share this letter.

Participants in the Guelph Downtown Dining District will lay off as many as 100 employees this Monday, as City Staff declined to grant an extension past September 21st 2020. As Owners, we are concerned that with recent Covid trends, customers will be forced to dine indoors in the near future.

We are truly disappointed that while other Municipalities across the province are moving to extend their outdoor dining districts for safety and economic benefits, Guelph is choosing another direction. In fact, city staff cite the recent rise in Covid numbers as a reason to close while we feel keeping people outside is the safer option. "I guess they feel it's safer inside" said Richard Overland of NV lounge.

Financial losses will start as soon as Monday September 21st, as the average capacity is set to be reduced by 68 percent from where it currently sits. This will be detrimental to business as a large percentage of people are only comfortable dining outside. "We had zero revenue and income for 3 months and just got caught up. Now we are going back to weekly and monthly losses, everyone including our staff is stressed" said Conrad Aiken, owner at Royal Electric.

City staff not only cited the rise in Covid cases as a reason for closing, but that "Seasonal maintenance work including line painting, catch basin cleaning, as well as street, sidewalk and pothole repair must be completed prior to inclement weather. The extent of the work required cannot be determined or executed with the current street patios in place." Bryan Steele, owner of La Reina, says "this makes no sense as pot-holes were filled two weeks ago, both inside and outside of the patios in the dining district (we have the pictures), catch basins were marked as sprayed and this week the camera inspections were completed. Also, we offered to move everything to paint the lines if necessary. How are they going to paint the lines with the road barriers that are in place outside of the dining district? Can't they do the same for the rest of the district?"

Colton Proveau from Brothers Brewing says "Six months of this until spring will be devastating. For what? To paint some lines ... can't that wait till spring."

The owners feel that Mayor Cam Guthrie and City council support the Dining District and an extension but for some reason there is a real lack of support coming from the city staff. The Downtown Guelph Business Association (DGBA) confirmed its support of a further extension this morning.

As owners we are desperately hoping something can be done to save these jobs and keep Guelph citizens safe outside during Covid.

Yours Sincerely,

Participants of the Downtown Dining District"

Let's keep this open! I would love a local Christmas market and usually attend these in other cities around Guelph, let's support local, protect jobs and keep this dining district open.

Lori Jansen

Guelph Resident

Dear Mayor Guthrie, Councillor Gordon, Councillor Goller, Councillor Gibson, Councillor Bell and City Clerks,

Please accept this email as my letter of support behind Mayor Cam Guthrie's motion to extend the Downtown Dining District until Jan. 1, 2021. It's vital for the survival of downtown businesses which have suffered greatly from the loss of business due to the pandemic. It has allowed at least 100 Guelphites to stay employed, brought people to the downtown both locally and from out of town to our city and has been a resounding success. Coupled with an outdoor Christmas Market, I believe this will help keep many downtown businesses afloat during the uncertainty of the winter months.

Sincerely,

Sidney Sproule

Ward 2 Resident

I support the downtown Guelph patio extension.

Thank you

Leah Suffern.

Hi,

I support and would love for the dining district to stay open until January 1st.

Thank you,

Abby Hart

Dear council members,

This is a note to say that I support the continuance of the downtown dining district. I've enjoyed many of the local businesses in that area, and would like to continue to do so. I think the downtown dining district helps support the small businesses that give the downtown core its uniqueness. I believe that citizens are also still anxious about moving any activities indoors, and it will be a long winter without some of the social activities that the dining district has let people enjoy.

Best,

Leah B.

Save downtown dining!

Please!

Jolen Downham

Hello,

This is just a quick note to express my support of the businesses downtown and the extended patio season that is up for renewal.

Thanks

Amanda May

Let's save businesses and jobs! And make downtown Guelph a destination!

Helen Langford

Hi there,

We are in favour of keeping the downtown dining district for as long as possible.

Thank you,

John and Diane Marchese

Hello Mayor Guthrie,

I, along with my husband own the Fat Bastard Burrito located downtown on Macdonell Street. We, along with several other small businesses operating in the downtown core would like to address the street closure and extended patios. We strongly feel that only one side has been taken into consideration. That side being the one who is benefitting from the closure.

We understand that several restaurants and bars have suffered through the worst of the pandemic. We are not strangers to this hardship. We worked extremely hard and made difficult decisions and cutbacks in order to survive and sustain our businesses. We managed to get through the worst of the pandemic only to have our own city and especially the Downtown Business Association make decisions that damaged our businesses.

The street closure has effectively eliminated 90 percent of our foot traffic. Those customers who would travel to eat at our restaurants are no longer coming down and many delivery drivers will not come because there is very limited parking available. All of us have experienced at least a 30% decline in sales. Lack of access and parking has been detrimental.

Not only are we experiencing loss of business, but the overall safety is a major concern. There is absolutely no social distancing taking place once patrons have had a few drinks. There is no keeping to one's table. People are socializing as if there is no pandemic to worry about. The closure has been nicknamed "Covid Alley".

You came and had a photo op at Brother's Brewery and declared that the closure has been a huge success. According to who has it been a huge success? Has anyone bothered to consider the negative impact it has had on just as many, if not more businesses than it has benefitted? We understand that everyone has to make a living but why not compromise? Why not close the streets Thursday-Saturday night? Many restaurants with the extensions are not even open on Mondays and hardly have any patrons on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Why not compromise and let everyone benefit? The closure is completely one sided and completely unfair. What is the DGBA doing to support all of downtown? Nothing. They have failed too many businesses in order to support a few. The streets were originally planned to open on September 7th. However, they may now remain closed until October 31st. This is a very very scary thought for many of us. It is unfair and irresponsible. There has to be some sort of compromise.

I appreciate you taking the time to hear us out.

Regards,

Angeline

save the dining district please

This will help the councillors vote on Monday night!!

Victor Natale

Hello,

It has been in the media that the City of Guelph is meeting to decide when to close the street patios. My spouse and myself were actually down there last weekend and had a spectacular time. We felt like we were on vacation somewhere, the atmosphere was amazing. We always felt very safe and noticed that patrons were following Covid protocol even saw masks outdoors. The negative economic impact for the businesses in the area is obvious if the patios were to close early. I would love to see this arrangement every year and for as long as weather permits. I do not feel that these gatherings have anything to do with the number of Covid transmissions rising. It couldn't be safer and the Police presence keeps it safer on another level. If Guelph citizens were voting on this issue, our vote would be to stay open as long as possible.

Thanks for your time,

Laura Hart

I just wanted to express my support for extending the downtown patio.

I really believe it is the best decision and is likely to lessen the hardship of this challenging time and increase prosperity for everyone.

Thank you very much.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

John R. Ferguson, PhD

My house hold and myself are placing our vote to support this wonderful experience. Extend it please!

This is a blessing, downtown has seen more traffic and by doing so, people discover many unique local downtown businesses when they walk off the food.

Out downtown feels more alive

Peter Bassa and family

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my support for the extension of the dining district in Guelph and the creation of a Christmas market.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my visits to the dining district this summer.

They have made the downtown area so much more fun and interesting to visit.

During this pandemic, this dining district has been and will be critical to support our local shops, breweries, and restaurants to survive.

Without this dining district, Guelph downtown could face a hollowing out of our beloved stores and restaurants which would be a huge loss to our community.

I am also very excited about the idea of a Christmas market downtown.

What a wonderful idea!

Please keep the dining district and create a Christmas market!

Chris Greyson-Gaito

Resident of Ward 5 – Guelph

I am in favour and fully support the Mayors efforts to keep the downtown dining open.

Steve Van Dam

Owner

Marden Motors Ltd

I support the extension of the down town closure.

Chidi Nwene

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my relief that the downtown dining district will not be extended any further. The current state of downtown Guelph would operate much smoother with roads reopening. Also, considering that COVID-19 cases are rising, this will affect our health when an outbreak occurs at one of the downtown establishments.

Please close the downtown dining district ASAP.

Haiden Hargreaves

We support the patio extension downtown.

Doug & Alyson Woods

I am in full support of restaurants and bars extending and even expanding outdoor dining. This is so important in times like these and so much safer. I would not dine in

Sincerely

Lynn Clack

To whom it may concern,

As a Guelph citizen I believe that the dining district has done more good than bad. Saying that, there are other small businesses being affected by road closures and Uber pick ups and lost revenue. I think that if council decides to continue running it, also creating a support for the small businesses affected by the closures. It is important, as a community to help all businesses downtown, not just restaurants and bars.

Best regard,

Melany Vasquez

Please accept this email as my support for the downtown dining district and the notion that it's opening should be extended/permanent

Jill Davis

Hello,

My family is sending this email in support of extending and keeping for future times the " European experience " of restaurants and other business in downtown Guelph. My family has loved this summer experience. It is good for jobs. Future tourists will come to downtown Guelph. Mayor Cam supports this and we need all city counsellors get behind extending it and keeping it.

Respectfully,

Les and FRancie Schmidt

I want the downtown dining district extended till at least the end of October 2020

Steve Mezey

dining district downtown

please extend it as Mayor asks

Elizabeth (Bettylou) Ross

To Whom It May Concern:

I am e-mailing in full support of keeping the downtown dining district open. I don't think it should be just an extension, it should be permanent. I have always appreciated how unique Guelph is as well as how progressive it is. More than ever, cities need to promote less car use. We have a brand-new parkade with lots of available space so let's use it. Europe has shown how successful and popular pedestrian squares are and our downtown district project also supports this. It has brought life and business back to our city. It is tough enough being a small business owner and COVID has obviously created hard times. No one wants a downtown core full of boarded up businesses. It is negative for everyone.

Every project or topic will always have some naysayers. I would like to think a small few are not allowed to rule for the majority. This project is quite new and I would strongly believe from our experiences as well as looking at successes in other cities (Europe?), we can make changes to work out any kinks.

Thank you for your time. I hope I am still able to sit out and enjoy a beer downtown this week. The weather looks great!!

Angela Tamblyn

Hello City Clerks,

I would like to show my support for the Downtown Dining District extension. I have heard complaints from what seems be the loud minority, and in my opinion it comes down to how many boarded up shops on Wyndham do you want? Businesses complaining would see more walk-in business for from the district. Tourism 101.

There are more each passing week as you make your way up to Woolwich. Nobody is going to have anywhere to come to downtown at this rate.

A downtowner who utilizes downtown,

Ryan Laing

To whom it may concern:

I think it is a serious mistake to close down the dining district! Please leave it open till January. What harm could it do? It might prove to be a very useful experiment.

Thank you,

Ferne Pederson

Save the dining district

Thanks

Antoinette Lucchese

Hello to all Counsellors and Mayor of Guelph,

I support the extension of this patio into the fall months, for as long as the weather can be mitigated by more layers and heaters.

I moved downtown in May, as a student who completed their Masters this summer on a new timeline amidst the pandemic, the dining district brought a great amount of joy to my isolation – even in the times I wasn't directly using it. My window is

directly above the patios on Wyndham, and I have enjoyed hearing the new flow of the day. From setup around 11am, to the slow build of people until mid-afternoon when swells of laughter start popping up. Throughout the evening the noise is at times less friendly and more chaotic, but I've come to love it all the same. This has helped my mental health significantly while spending most of my time alone, in moments when work-from-home dictates I not spend all hours sipping a patio beer.

I have enjoyed visiting the district to support favourite businesses like Brothers Brewery, La Reina, and Royal Electric, using their patios extended on to the street. Often, with pals who I hadn't seen for months before the open air dining was allowed, we also would go to businesses like Gin Mill and Sip Club in our evening, supporting more than just those who have benefitted from this patio setup on the closed street.

As a cyclist I appreciate the pedestrianized streets at this busy downtown core intersection, and feel safe using my bike to go other places nearby with less chaotic traffic speeding up and down the streets.

I also support the long-term idea of pedestrianizing more of downtown in this manner on a seasonal and/or permanent basis. Carden St. for instance received a dangerous amount of traffic due to the detour around MacDonnell, but in an alternate design it could be pedestrianized instead of the complete main intersection. For those considering revising this model for future summers, I would suggest something like a pop up patio that is cooperative among all businesses in the downtown, and have tables all over Carden, leaving more through traffic for the main channels instead.

That said, the main streets need some calming measures to reduce danger to cyclists and pedestrians trying to access businesses. No street parking (since the parkade is so close) would be one major way to reduce the likelihood of collisions with reversing cars.

This pilot project is an excellent example of place-making planning, and I hope the benefits of economic value (the jobs for the workers at all these establishments!!) are enough to encourage you to prioritize keeping this model for a few more weeks at least.

From my window-view, there are still hundreds if not thousands using the patios daily, and given Ontario's more mild fall (than my home of Northern Alberta) I think it is something that could be managed. If Edmonton can close down a street in February for a festival based on winter, Guelph can encourage a bit of flannel and socks in our Birkenstocks to keep the service economy alive a bit longer until the pandemic allows us to mingle inside again.

Best,

Jude Keefe

Hi,

I'm emailing my support for extending the patio season and the dining district downtown.

We need to do what we can to support local businesses and restaurants and save jobs during these unprecedented times.

We've been several times over the summer and there is such a great vibe and atmosphere. In these uncertain times, it's important to have spaces where residents can go and feel safe and support local.

Thanks,

Laura Zver

Hi

I support the Downtown Dining District.

Wanda Evans

As a profession with a high contact rate with the public the downtown eating district and other patios in the south end are the only options for me to socialize with my bubble outside of my home. Please keep the dinning district open. To at least thanksgiving

Connie Zavitz, MEd, CPA, CA

This needs to be extended, otherwise our businesses won't survive, simple.

Max

Hello and to whom it may concern,

I am writting in support of keeping Guelph's downtown dining district open for the foreseeable future.

As a small business owner myself, having opened Pomegranate Grove Massage and Yoga Centre on Surrey St in Guelph I can attest to the challenges 2020 has brought. Giving our downtown dining district a fighting chance this fall by leaving the patios open is the right thing to do. Our downtown vibrant and positive culture depends on it.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mairin Da Maren

Good morning

I wanted to toss in my support to keep the downtown dining district open as well as a potential Christmas market.

My route during the day is often through downtown and while I've had to adjust it to where I need to go, I do it proudly to keep this great dining area alive.

If we don't support them now, they may not be around to support later.

Thanks

Scott Jennings

My spouse and I have really appreciated having the walkable streets downtown being closed to cars. We regularly walk downtown and have been thrilled to see the vibrancy and number of participants in our downtown. What a difference to the downtown of the past with so few in the restaurants and stores!

We hope the Dining District continues and leads to the vibrancy of Downtown Guelph.

Sandra Ellis and Ralph Shapiro

Hi - just an email to support Guelph's downtown dining district patios to remain open until weather no longer permits, thanks!

Andra Williams

Greetings to you all,

I hope you're all well and safe.

I'm writing to express my support for the car-free "Downtown Dining District". My understanding is that it's scheduled to close up tomorrow and that there's a special meeting to discuss. Unfortunately I can't be there, but I want to let you know that I'm in support of keeping it open and operating as long as possible.

Not only has it so clearly helped our local businesses to keep operating (and help support all of the people who work there, and the businesses that rely on supplying and maintaining the downtown restaurants and bars for their success), but it's a beautiful improvement to the quality of life in the city. It's a great first step towards a better, more human-centred vision for the city.

I urge you all to support its continuation and I look forward to hearing about your support as well tomorrow night.

Thank you and all the best,

Ben Grossman

Dear Clerk

Please find this email in great support of the downtown dining district. This new addition to our downtown core has created a space where all Guelph's members can enjoy the space, and not surrender the downtown to university students out binge drinking. There is place for all our residents. In a global pandemic, where human contact is greatly policed for our safety, which I support, innovative spaces that support our local business are greatly important.

Please consider extending the district.

Warmly,

Jane Addeo

Hi there,

I am sure you are getting a lot of these, but wanted to send a quick note.

As a Guelph citizen and business owner, I can't express how great it has been to have the dining district setup.

It is saving jobs, keeping businesses alive, making it possible to eat out in a safe way, and feels like it has completely transformed the downtown of our city.

It would be tremendous to see this extended.

Best,

Paul Demarco

I support downtown business with the extension of the downtown dining district until Jan 1 2021 Jayne Osborn

To whom it may concern,

We're proud of our city and support local small businesses. To that end, my family and I hope our downtown restaurants are allowed to keep their outdoor seating areas open for customers. Please save Guelph's Dining District businesses!

Many thanks,

Dana & Joel Crawford

To who it may concern:

Writing to you to support the extension of the patio opening of downtown Guelph.

Covid will be around for a long time. We need to adapt and move forward. Get rid of CERB (like they are doing). People need jobs/ need to work. We need to think outside the box Like who would have thought our kids would be going to school with masks on? It's just what we need to do (for now). We need to adapt and be creative with what we have.

Keeping our downtown open has been a creative way to move forward- keep jobs- and bring life to our streets.

Respectfully

Francie Schmidt

Please keep the downtown core open on the streets as long as possible. I live it. Thx.

Louise Coffey

Gooday

I would like to express to my local council, my support for the continuation of the downtown dining district until Jan 2021. Since March I have been working from home, which means I am not downtown nearly as much as I used to be. Since the district opened earlier this year, I've been drawn downtown again to visit some of my favourite establishments. Once I'm downtown I then visit a few of the other businesses I haven't been to in a while. I think it is a win-win scenario to keep the district going as long as possible. In fact, I would love to see a more permanent pedestrian only area in our downtown core.

Thanks

Marnie Benson

Please, please, PLEASE allow the Guelph dining district to remain open as long as possible. If owners are able to keep their patios heated throughout colder weather, please allow them.

I have enjoyed the new dining district on at least 10 occasions since it opened, and will be there today as well.

Our downtown businesses need all the help they can get and shutting them down by essentially forcing people to dine inside, which many people are not comfortable with, is not fair or necessary.

I will be incredibly disappointed in our City staff and counsellors if this wonderful, safe, and economic boon gets shut down.

Thank you,

Patrick Stiles

Greetings! I would like to express my support for the dining district in Guelph! I think the way forward for the downtown to compete with the malls and strip malls of the surrounding area is not only to keep what we have gained during covid, but to expand it, transforming the heart of Guelph into a cultural hotspot, not unlike what you will find in many historic European and Latin American countries. Downtown restaurants and businesses cannot compete on the basis of price and convenience with malls and shopping centers. What they can provide is the experience of our historic downtown. Let's not continue on the failing attempt to make the downtown cheap and convenient. Let's provide a platform for business to

thrive on the basis of a shared community experience. We have carden st., we have Quebec st. Mall, we have the church of our lady, let's close all of Wyndham and Macdonell to traffic, plant trees and flower boxes, build stages and patios, and make Guelph's downtown a cultural Mecca! Let's make COVID 19 an opportunity and come back transformed!

Sincerely,

Keiran Graf

To Councillors and Staff:

I am strongly in favour of extending the downtown outdoor dining for as long as possible. Our local businesses need all the help they can get, and allowing them to offer comfortable and safe outdoor dining (rather than limiting them to only being able to offer more dangerous indoor dining options) is the only responsible decision to make.

First of all, having dined at multiple locations downtown, I can say that I feel very safe--much safer than dining indoors (which I am still hesitant to do). If council is worried about increasing COVID numbers, I simply do not see the logic of forcing diners indoors.

Second of all, closing off the streets was a GREAT idea and (in my opinion) should continue even when the pandemic ends. It makes the downtown core extremely walkable, offers a festive sense of community that was lacking, and makes downtown feel like a destination.

Finally, I simply do not accept concerns that closing Wyndham and Macdonnell is detrimental to businesses. I have friends that operate a shop in Elora and know for a fact that the Christmas market (during which the main streets are closed) is their busiest time. If parking is a concern for some people, then they should be happy to know that Guelph has a brand new and beautiful parking garage right beside City Hall that more than offsets lost street parking.

In my view, the question should be whether to make the amazing outdoor patio extensions a permanent fixture in Guelph, not whether such an inspired idea should be cut short.

Michael Kennedy

I am writing in hopes that the closure of the Guelph Downtown Dining District might be reconsidered.

As we enter the last days of summer and into early fall, I think Guelph businesses must be given every opportunity and advantage to earn money before the potential for closures or further lockdown, as well as the challenges that poorer weather will present for outdoor activity.

I also think the residents of Guelph would continue to appreciate a space to safely enjoy outside activity.

I hope that this decision can be revisited.

Thank you for your consideration.

Heather MacKenzie

Guelph, Ontario

No, no, no Please don't close the downtown dining district ... we love it and support it a few times a week please reconsider We aren't dining "in" so the outdoor option has been fabulous!

Sincerely

Diners from Rockwood

Maggie Main

Hello

I am writing in strong support of keeping the car-free Downtown Dining District open for as long as possible. I really like the Mayor's proposal to keep it going until January. In these trying times, I think every effort should be made to support our local entrepreneurs. Restaurants have been hit incredibly hard by the pandemic and these patios are giving them at least a small glimmer of hope. Plus, for those of us looking for safe ways to socialize and support local companies, the patios are terrific. Losing them now would be a huge shame and a massive lost opportunity.

Thanks for your time and attention.

Maggie McCaw

Good Afternoon,

I am writing in support of keeping the Downtown Dining district open until Jan 2020. I have visited the area a number of times and have included visiting and supporting various downtown shops while I am there.

I am 100% in support of these business patios staying open to avoid layoffs and maintain sales for all those invested to do business during a pandemic.

Please don't shut them down, maybe even dress it up a little more.

Yours truly,

Lori Pollock

Guelph, ON

Good Afternoon,

Please extend the dining outdoors. It provides a great opportunity for local businesses to survive this pandemic.

Thanks for allowing residents the opportunity to have a say on this matter.

Julie Pierce

Hello

I just wanted to send a quick email to say that I hope you keep the dining district going for the foreseeable future in downtown Guelph. As the seasons change and we will find ourselves more indoors and not able to gather inside, it is really important that we continue to support Guelph downtown businesses. I also love the idea of a Christmas market would that not that be amazing.

Kindly Cathy Doucette

Hello Concern,

My name is Rayomand Pervez Irani, resident of Guelph, and I vote to support the business idea of dining district in downtown Guelph.

Thanks

Rayo

Rayomand Pervez Irani

Please keep this open!! My family and I don't feel comfortable going indoors and the out door space allows for proper social distancing. It also employs people and saves businesses. Please keep it open Permanently. Thanks!

Morgan Adams

Hello!

My name is Martha Adams and I am a Guelph resident. I'm sending this email support of extending the downtown outdoor dining district. We have continued to see the positive results to our community from this effort and enjoy the area as patrons.

It would be wonderful to see this initiative extended to help support the businesses, their employees and the Guelph residents.

Sincerely,

Martha Adams

Hello,

I am emailing to show my support for Mayor Guthrie's Holiday market idea and His desires to extend the length of time that the downtown dining district stays open.

Cassi Zettle, BSc.

University of Guelph

Hello,

I would like to express my utmost support for extending the outdoor dining district in Downtown Guelph. Challenging times call for creative measures and I believe that it is important to support our local restaurants and employees. Outdoor dining poses limited risks to public health compared to indoor dining, particularly if people are situated in pods that are physically separated from one another. I strongly support Council endorsing this idea and thank the Mayor for bringing the motion forward during a special meeting.

Take care,

Anita Acai

Hello,

In response to Mondays council meeting, and as a city of Guelph resident, I am writing to express my support of continuing the downtown dining district.

Thank you,

Jen Oke

Please keep it going until end of October. The downtown needs it!

Kris Lawson

I am emailing to state my support for the extension of the downtown dining district.

Jay Soomal

City Counsellors,

The downtown dining district has been the best thing to happen to downtown in 10 years. It has given Guelphites a reason to visit downtown. I've had friends come from as far as Barrie to check it out. They loved it!

Why would you take this away from small business owners and force patrons inside, especially as COVID cases increase.

Keep the Dining District!

Bryan Steele

The downtown dining district has been the best thing to happen to downtown in 10 years. It has given Guelphites a reason to visit downtown. I've had friends come from as far as Barrie to check it out. They loved it!

Why would you take this away from small business owners and force patrons inside, especially as COVID cases increase.

Keep the Dining District!

Bryan

As a residence of Guelph and during these uncertain times I feel it is in everyone's best interest to save the downtown dining district.

Most of these businesses took a major hit at the height of Covid causing major loss in revenue as well employing many young adults who rely on this income to pay for school and rent. It is a huge economic impact to the employers and their employees. And during such uncertain times these businesses need to thrive for as long as they can. Please help to support and save the downtown dining district!

Regards,

Tamara Corlis

My husband and I (that's two votes) are fully supportive of the dining district staying open. It has been such a wonderful transformation to the downtown area. Please consider staying open through the winter months with extra patio heaters and customers bringing blankets to keep warm this is a must do and would be so appreciated by the restaurant staff and owners. Also please add our support to holding a Christmas market in the downtown area. This would be a wonderful way to start a new tradition.

Thank

Lynne and Jim Wilson

I am in favour of the downtown District continuing

Marino Gazzola

I feel the dining district has been great for Guelph. My family and I have frequent it quite regularly.

Many people have enjoyed and it would be sad to see it go. Never mind the amount of jobs that will be lost.

Please think about all the happy people of Guelph that are enjoying and the employees when voting Thank you Jennifer Inglis

Hi

I'd like to put my name in for voting in favour to keep the downtown district open for as long as possible please. It is a wonderful asset to the downtown area and I'm sure the City can work with business owners to come up with a plan that works for everyone.

Thanks,

Kristen Chiasson

Please keep outdoor dining downtown at least until November 1st or longer!
Downtown owners of these establishments need the business during these trying times!

Steve & Marlene Truscott

I wish for the dining district to continue and I like the idea of a Christmas market there. Thank you.

Mark Kenny

Please reconsider extending the downtown dining district to help these people survive the coming winter. Thanks Al

Alan Kirkpatrick

Messaging to state my opinion that the downtown dining district needs to be kept open as long as possible.

Put the citizens & businesses of Guelph first! Road construction/ maintenance, etc is consistently postponed for a variety of issues. Not the top priority IMO, as we

navigate through unheard of times with Covid-19. And certainly, not a reason to keep downtown businesses from being kept afloat as long as possible.

Regards,

Joyce Hopkins

A 25-year Guelph taxpayer!

My husband Derek Hodge and I Jessica Hodge would love to see the Dining District continue.

Counselors, (firstly, happy Sunday)

Some points to consider about the dining district.

How about supporting all of the Guelph business?

Why is it that the 100 jobs at those seven establishments in the dining district are so crucial and any more important than the rest?

The rest of the hospitality offerings in Guelph that are continuing with dwindling sales numbers have also not been able to hire people back? Or we have hired employees back and had to let them go again. Whether it be grab and go food or table service all have been affected.

So if I only have 1/3 of my staff back... why don't those 10 people's jobs matter as well?

The mayors Twitter is getting atrocious... supporting people visiting from hot spots, liking photos of non social distancing... people NOT wearing masks.... I cannot fathom the "Twitter people" that wrote „Dining district" employers are following every rule in the book" I call falsehood on that. Go there with a six foot measure stick... chair back to chair back = not 2m ... rules are being broken. Those bars had every opportunity to choose the „patios in parking spaces" option and all have patios [till Oct. 31](#). They have had the silver spoon treatment ALL SUMMER... now heaven forbid they have to fill out some paperwork and get in line for a patio like the rest of us. *SIXTY* summer days I waited on my patio. The loss in revenue for my business will never be recouped.

I remain in utter disbelief that "The bar owners" complaint is they are just NOW breaking EVEN?? I will be in debt until 2024 at this rate... or just plain bankrupt before year end.

It is just a take, take, take mentality.

How about leaving some of the „hospitality pie“ available to other businesses... it's like this is Guthrie's „shiny PRECIOUS“ lord of the rings, and he is like Gollum. His lust for this project is corrupting his mind to see any other sides to the issues. Open the street... give them all their “bouncy castles” (patios in parking spaces) and level the playing field. I'm all for fair market competition. This summer has not been about that at all. A unilaterally unfair advantage has occurred and it continues to be so.

Good grief!

p.s. Also of note... a big sarcastic thank you for the decision that was made to remove the power capabilities from the light standards on Carden street... that was such a great treat for a whole three day weekend where guests had the luxury of electric heat provided by “the city”. Much appreciation for making it even harder to run a restaurant, outdoors during a pandemic.

Kind regards.

Nicole Hogg...

owner, operator

(of the soon to be bankrupt) atmosphere cafe + etc.

Thank you for your patronage over the last 16 years.

Hey!

I'm Alim Nathoo and I wanted to show my support for the patios to be put in permanently as we need to not only save the businesses but also they will be a great way for them to make more revenue once Covid-19 is over.

As someone that visits Guelph, this is a great way to enjoy the time outdoors and to support these wonderful businesses.

Please put this on tomorrow's agenda.

Thank you,

Alim Nathoo

I am in favour of keeping downtown streets closed in order to keep the enlarged patio areas open

Shelley Reid

I'm writing to express my 100% support in keeping the downtown dining district open through December.

The district has kept businesses open and people employed!

Do not ruin a good thing, a successful initiative that put the city of Guelph in the lead of economic sustainability and recovery during the pandemic!

Please!!!

Angi Roberts

I am writing to express my strong support for extending the downtown dining district. There are employment and other benefits that cannot be ignored. Keeping downtown Guelph busy and attractive benefits everyone in the City.

Sincerely,

Jim Crocker

Yes!! I support extending the Downtown Patio Season.

Deborah Morrissette

Yes I like to see it stay Nellie Jagt

Hello!

This email is to express my support for the continued operation of the dining district. Although I was only able to visit the district for a meal once over the summer I witnessed the joy of others using the district at that time and during walks downtown. This is the perfect opportunity to test car-free downtown and other events like Christmas Market while providing much needed social opportunities to support mental health during these isolating times.

Guelph has been progressive in many ways to continue to promote and support community and place making. Guelph serve as an example for other municipalities.

Keep up the great work!

Karen Chisholme

Please keep the dining district downtown.

It's beautiful and delicious.

There are street thieves that stole someone's bike off the rack, but that's one thorn in the Rose.

I love the atmosphere.

Family and friends

Rosalie Young

Dear City Counsellors,

Please don't shut down the dining district. Keeping it open will encourage people to continue to safely socialize, instead of throwing house parties.

Thank you,

Stephanie Parisi

To whom it may concern,

I feel very strongly that the downtown Guelph dining district should remain open! My partner and I have been cautious with covid (as are all of my friends) and feel that dining outside is much safer - we have found the downtown dining area to be an oasis during this pandemic as it allows us a bit of normalcy while staying safe.

Furthermore, as someone who lives close to downtown, and often has to drive through downtown, the road closures are only a minor inconvenience if anything. The advantages of having the downtown dining area have far outweighed this inconvenience.

My last point is that I want to see these businesses survive. Many like myself don't feel comfortable dining indoors yet (as was evident by the number of people outdoors on the weekend vs indoors). Why make these businesses suffer further? They have already invested in the patio equipment, why not let them use it!

I understand this matter is up for review so please consider that many people in Guelph are thoroughly enjoying the downtown dining district and would like to see it stay for a little longer!

Thank you for your time,

Rachel Exler

To whom it may concern,

Please preserve the downtown dining district.

I believe the outdoor dining options downtown present a good compromise for Guelph residents who are not comfortable dining indoors given the current COVID 19 climate.

Furthermore, I believe the car free area has made downtown a much more pleasant area to walk and spend time. I live close to downtown and am unbothered by the road closures.

If the district is removed it would significantly reduce my spending at the restaurants who are currently involved in the program. I'm sure there are many other residents who would agree.

Thank you for your consideration,

Greg Bruns

I feel that the restaurant patios in downtown Guelph should remain open for an extended time.

Pat Rath

Our wonderful city needs the business and revenue...

Please keep our downtown patios open! If Covid continues, we also need an outlet and some positivity in our lives.

Sincerely,

Lynn Bunce

Hello,

I'd like to add my voice to the vote to keep the Downtown Dining District open.

For years we've heard that not enough people come downtown, that businesses are suffering, and the Dining District has done just that - brought more people to the core.

Giving people a reason to come downtown - this unique Dining District! - also helps non-food and drink businesses by offering more foot traffic for retail shops that are, like so many others, struggling due to the pandemic.

I would love to see the Dining District return each summer - pandemic or not - to continue drawing pedestrian traffic to the core and offering a unique environment that is gaining attention outside of Guelph as well. This was a great resolution to a global problem, and the benefits stretch far beyond the problem of the pandemic.

Keep the District going - keep people coming downtown!!

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Kasia Rusiniak

To whom it may concern,

I strongly believe that the downtown dining district should continue to operate until the colder weather deems them unable to and in addition be a tradition that is carried on every year from now on considering the positive feedback and the improvements on the overall image of the downtown core.

The often-mentioned issue of the redirected traffic is not a strong argument as the downtown core is easily accessible via bus and there is still ample parking around downtown dining district to get to other businesses. I have visited downtown this summer on multiple occasions and have always been able to find a parking spot or bus to where I needed to go. Buses do have to go around downtown to go about their respective routes now, but it has not immensely affected buses arriving late in my experience.

In addition, the dining district has critically transformed the overall image of Downtown Guelph. Before the streets were closed, it was almost hazardous and an inconvenience to visit downtown due to the amount of traffic. The Downtown is much more peaceful and enjoyable to visit with the expanded patios. It's a new concept that other cities will be looking to follow and it would be great if we were the ones to perpetuate this tradition every summer and be proud of the fact that we started it. This would have a positive impact on the community and increase tourism in Guelph.

With the temperatures getting cooler, it is imperative that we continue to support local businesses while they have the space to accommodate a large amount of people. With the extended patios, some restaurants were able to more than triple their customer serving space. Prematurely ending the dining district would make it harder for local restaurants that we have come to love so much to make ends meet. Businesses that have worked so hard to adapt to these unprecedented times do not deserve to stress about they're going to go about safely serving a fraction of their usual clientele.

I believe that the downtown dining district should be an annual event.

In conclusion, the downtown dining district should be able to continue to operate until colder weather deems it necessary to move patrons indoor. A

Sincerely,

Alisa Cogan

To Mayor and all the people in Guelph:

My name is Joyce Wang. I am writing this letter to let you know that we really want this patio project comes to its end. We have been suffering for almost 3 months already.

How my business is impacted:

- The handicap parking space is no longer accessible for my clients who may have mobility issues.
- My clients do not feel safe passing through an area that is overly congested with people, where social distancing rules are not always abided to

How I am personally impacted:

- The noise and light pollution into the Late Hours (until 2am)
- I have young children of school age that require regular sleep patterns

Easternwell Chinese Medicine opens for business from 9am -7pm, six days a week. Why must I be threatened into giving up access and visibility to my storefront? That operation in question is only open from only afternoon to midnight. It is not fair business practice that only some businesses should benefit while others are severely taken advantage of. They are not even using the space all day and my clientele is unable to easily and safely enter my business.

I have witnessed first hand on numerous occasions intoxicated students that are not masked and are certainly not adhering to social distancing regulations. I live right above my place of business and am concerned that these continual gatherings

are not beneficial to keeping the pandemic under control. Under the influence of alcohol, people are not adhering to the rules and there is not enough efforts being made to monitor those that are offenders

Thank you in advance for reading my concerns. If you would like to contact me personally to further any concerns I have raised in my email, please feel free to reach out via email or phone.

Kind regards,

Joyce Wang

To whom it may concern,

I am emailing today to express my discontentment at the proposal of the continuation of the Dining District in Guelph. Cases are steadily rising in Ontario, and will continue to rise if we do not act now. As Guelph is a university town, many young adults are partaking in group drinking both in their homes and on the downtown patios. From my own experience as a server in the Dining District, many people who come to the patio do not take part in active social distancing and mask wearing, putting both the other patrons and the employees at risk.

Furthermore, the patios will have substantially fewer attendees as the weather continues to decrease, but staff are still expected to work outside in the colder months as long as the patio is open. This is not ideal for our staff who have worked so hard over the summer, and are deserving of a well needed break. I am ultimately of the belief that the lives of Guelphites are more important than the small increase in profits that the downtown restaurants will see if the patios remain extended. I hope you take these points into consideration tomorrow in your meeting.

Thank you for your consideration of the reasons listed above.

Best,

KP

Kaitlyn Pothier

Please keep the outdoor dining downtown open longer.

Keep people employed and let people enjoy restaurants who are not comfortable eating inside yet.

Thanks

S and K Evans

September 20, 2020

To the Downtown Dining District Special Council Meeting:

As a downtown business owner just beside the dining district, I hope the city council do not miss any factor in the equation before making a decision. I often wondering how much of those closed spaces for dining district have been fully used and how many patios sit empty each day for how long. The closed roads discourage potential customers visit downtown and this will affect adversely many other businesses downtown. The downtown mail delivery has been disrupted. Packages cannot be delivered and mails are being delayed. Downtown businesses are paying a cost for the disruption. Detours (including the public transportation) caused by the closed roads are costing to many, not just time but also money.

We may also want to think about how policies like this will affect the future downtown business landscape. Will it attract more varieties of businesses come downtown or will it scare businesses stay away from downtown? Will it bring more people live downtown or will it discourage people live downtown?

During this unprecedented tough time, let's treat every business and every citizen equal.

All businesses matter. Everyone's time matters. Everyone's money matters. Everyone's life matters.

I feel very hesitate to say the current scene of closed downtown roads cannot be uglier.

Thank you,

Guangyun Hou

Guelph ON

To whom it may concern

I am a resident of Guelph that is very worried about the safety of workers and the public if the downtown patios remain open. Many of the restaurants require their serving staff, especially female employees, to wear skimpy uniforms that are not meant for outdoor wear in Canadian fall and winter. This is a concern as temperatures drop below freezing. Not to mention the recent outbreak in Ontario,

along with students from around the province settling into Guelph for the Fall semester. Keeping the extended patio open puts our workers and the entire community at risk. Downtown revenue should not be put above the health and safety of our community.

Drew Skeen

Guelph Resident

Hello?

I am writing to inform you of my appreciation for the dining District in Guelph. I have heard that it is a short term project, I would like to see it extended as far as possible, not only for the patrons but also for the businesses that can benefit from this leniency. Thank you for your consideration.

Nic Kelly

I wanted to voice my support for the downtown patio extension. I hope we can continue this and support these downtown businesses who so badly need our patronage and help.

Mark Hurson

Hello,

I'm in support of extending the length of time it stays open to support the restaurants during the pandemic.

Thanks,

Monica Peirson

Hello,

I'd like to express my support for the downtown dining district. I think it's important for businesses downtown, and it adds something very unique to our city.

Even as the weather turns colder, heat lamps, tents, and warm clothing will have people coming out and enjoying it. It could even turn into something like a Christmas night market.

Thank you,
Best regards,
David Laing

Hello,

This is a request to extend the Guelph Downtown Dining District. I was in shock to hear it wasn't being extended. It's an absolute no-brainer to keep this open. It's been amazing to see people out and enjoying patios safely. Even seeing people who don't normally visit downtown!

Audrey Tysick

I am in support of keeping this outdoor dining district open until at least January.

Leasa Peters

I support the downtown dining district street shutdown until January 2021!!

Leslie Laing

Why on earth would anyone not support this - insane that I have to send an email!
Do the right thing to help our downtown businesses!

Stephanie Turner

To whom it concerns,

I'm writing to express my disagreement in extending the closing date of Guelph downtown dining district.

I believe the dining district should be closed soon to prevent the second wave of outbreak, based on the following reasons:

1. The social distancing hasn't been practiced well in the dining district, as I noticed. For example, the seats are quite close to the pedestrian way. Also, people

wait in lines to get into restaurants and bars, but it occupies the pedestrian walkway, making it difficult keep social distancing for others who are passing by. In addition, is getting colder, so dining indoor will be more popular while increasing the risk.

2. An outbreak at Western university has occurred after parties at downtown London bars, and community spreading is evident after confirmed cases show up in other areas of London. This should be a warning for Guelph.

3. People are generally responsible, but alcohol consumption and a party mindset doesn't help. Unfortunately, unless the bars can 100% ensure that the customers are practicing social distancing, it won't be surprising to see Guelph going through what occurred in London.

I would truly appreciate your consideration of Guelph residents' safety.

Thanks,

Lois Lin

Dining district should be keep going until people stop sitting outside.

Ranjit Kambo

To whom it may concern, please let this happen. Let's step up and support our local business, our downtown and the many people who are employed by these businesses. This is Guelph's opportunity to stand up and stand out. Why not encourage more businesses to move onto the street if they're able. A hallowe'en event! A Christmas market! Make this happen and "they will come".

Best regards,

Ann Croft

Good day,

I'm writing as a regular user of the area to express my strong support for an extension to the Downtown Dining District.

I ask each member of council to place her or his vote where it can register a clear signal of forward looking governance.

Further, in the coming months let's explore ways to seize the moment afforded by this exceptional time to move toward a permanent pedestrianized zone in Guelph.

The time is now to make bold decisions!

Kind regards,

Tim LeBlanc

Members of council,

I write to you as someone aware of the challenges for businesses trying to remain viable during the COVID-19 pandemic. I have been involved in retail and food & beverage services for more than 45 years.

At the onset of COVID-19 the City of Guelph had a number of options to extend sidewalk dining areas. Most cities chose simple and inexpensive solutions to extend sidewalk patios into on street parking lanes separated by simple and inexpensive barriers - often just traffic cones. Even busy cities like Toronto have followed this approach with street cars and vehicular traffic nearby. These innovations happened quickly - maximizing beneficial economic impact.

Guelph has repeatedly chosen the most disruptive and expensive "solutions" to provide COVID-19 options for bars and restaurants. Why? How is the threat of vehicular traffic on Wyndham Street or Carden more dangerous than Bloor Street or Dundas Street in Toronto? This is clearly absurd.

Why does council tolerate such needlessly fearful and expensive proposals from staff - let alone vote for them? Why did it take weeks to rollout the expensive and bureaucratic proposal that resulted in Guelph's over-the-top patio sidewalk expansions into parking bays? Instead of rapidly implementing safe and sensible expanded sidewalk patios, Guelph chose to implement the "dining district" - essentially a not particularly COVID-19-safe bar.

The mayor's proposal to extend street closures should be rejected. I encourage you to open all streets at the end of September and to direct staff to facilitate requests for sidewalk patio expansion into parking bays with less restrictive barrier requirements.

Best regards,

doug.

Doug Minett

Mayor Guthrie and Members of Council;

I support the motions put forward by His Worship Mayor Guthrie in extending the bylaw allowing the downtown dining district to remain in place until the end of the year.

Please vote in favour of the Mayor's motions.

Regards,

Paul Martin

Pls keep it open!!!!

Thank you!!

Jolly Bedi

I write today to show my support to keep the downtown dining district open and running next summer. To have a Christmas market. To keep people coming downtown!

Lianne Keais

Good morning !

Let's continue to keep the downtown vibrant! I love the vibe!

A Christmas market would be incredible !

Keep it going Guelph !

Theresa Young

Downtown dining YES!

Karla Roelofs

Dear Guelph council members,

My name is Dr. Sarah Lepage, and I'm an adjunct professor at the Ontario Veterinary College and have been a proud Guelphite for over 10 years. Upon hearing that my beloved Downtown Dining District is set to close today, I felt compelled to have my voice heard ahead of this evening's emergency council meeting.

There is no question that this revolutionary and historic movement to create a safe, outdoor dining space has been fantastic for the businesses involved. I still remember when I first walked through the area after it was set up - there was a humming tone of hope and togetherness that unified customers, staff, and owners in a common cause: To keep these businesses afloat during the pandemic.

Now, I understand there are a few weak justifications put forth by other businesses and city staff for the closure of the District today. Complaints from other downtown businesses about losing customers is not justifiable here - unless there is **concrete data** that Dining District = Lost Business and not Pandemic = Lost Business, then I don't buy it. Can someone let these places know that blaming a neighbouring successful business model for lost customers is NOT good for their reputation and bottom line? Promote yourselves better and the customers will return!

Regarding road maintenance, as you will hear many times this evening, this can be pushed to the spring. Period. Wyndham was already closed this spring for a few weeks for major repairs.

Lastly, I've heard of safety concerns as COVID cases continue to climb in Ontario. A few points: 1) Transmission is greatly decreased outdoors vs indoors, making patios still a safe way to socialize; 2) cases have mostly been linked to private home gatherings, not businesses, and 3) the provincial government may mandate further restrictions that will close restaurants again anyway. **Why not allow the Dining District to continue operating until this happens or until winter comes, whatever comes first?**

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter, it's much appreciated. I hope you make the right decision at the meeting this evening.

Sincerely,

Sarah Lepage

Hi there,

I gather a possible extension

If the majority of downtown business merchants (not just the owners of bars and restaurants) feel this has been a positive step, then I encourage council to consider an extension.

However, I have concerns.

In speaking with friends and colleagues, and watching images posted on social media, it's clear that stronger and better efforts need to be made to enforce rules around safety - including masks and distancing. Even the mayor is re-tweeting and applauding a recent post by someone who had friends in from two different hot-spot communities, huddled up for a photo op at a dining table. No distancing, no masks - lots of bubbles. Quite obviously not safe and nothing to be celebrated, that is for sure.

Cases are on the rise - exponentially from the sounds of it. I 100% support the downtown businesses and encourage people to be out and about - IF it can be done safely.

It sounds like later evening (i.e. after a few drinks) is when we see things go off the rails with safety compliance. A few thoughts:

- Close by 10pm
- Distancing enforced w/ actual penalties for business owners who are too lax on this
- If extended patios can't be safe, at least reserve parking lanes for easy curbside pick up. (Here again enforcement is a question mark. I picked up a curbside pizza at buon gusto - someone had used the one curbside spot as just a routine parking spot... defeats the purpose for those of us trying to stay safe while supporting businesses.)

I'd love to see the dining district flourish, but not at the risk of public safety. If we cannot enforce safety compliance, this will be another aspect of community living that we have to "lose" due to the actions of some.

Kelly Caldwell

Good evening Mayor Guthrie ,Councillors and City Staff ,my name is Mike Darmon and I am vice president of Guelph Coalition for Active transportation. GCATs mission is to increase the opportunity for safer and more enjoyable walking and transportation options so of course we strongly supports the Guelph downtown car free Dining District and extending its season past sept 21. Closing the dining district to cars has enabled pedestrians and cyclists to safely walk or bike to their favourite restaurant or shop without the worry of vehicular

traffic . In addition dining or shopping is now much more pleasurable without the noise ,distraction, and fumes of cars and trucks ruining the experience.

I have personally witnessed a huge increase in bicycle traffic downtown ,something I've never seen before.I've taken many pictures of families with kids in tow slowly meandering through the dining District area looking for a place to eat. I've also witnessed and spoken to many tourists visiting the dining district . Just last week I spoke with a group of bike riders who came all the way from Mississauga and stopped in the Dining District to eat and have a drink- because they had heard from other bicyclists what a wonderful experience they had had. Locals and tourists also comment on how European the area looks and feels.

By any measure the Dining District Pilot has been highly successful thus far ,so why do we not celebrate the success and continue it as long as possible as many business owners have requested -and gather valuable data in the process. I have heard arguments that the current configuration of the dining district is not equitable to all businesses and I question whether some of this has anything at all to do with the dining district? For example a couple of weeks ago a new donut shop opened on Quebec Street outside of the Dining District.I watched in amazement a lineup of more than 30 people waiting to shop there.

Some businesses complain about the parking but I constantly see over 400 spaces available in our brand new Parkade and I'm sure many of our other parking facilities are never full. The illusion of expecting an empty parking spot in front of a business will always be an illusion and most businesses are accessible within a short walking distance of parking facilities.

With regard to the north end of Wyndham Street ,I have previously delegated suggesting that it be reduced to two traffic lanes as is planned in the Downtown Secondary plan which would create much more patio space than currently available with the option of even more if some parking is taken away. This area could end up like Carden street IF traffic speed is reduced by turning it into a type of Slow Street. This could easily be achieved with simple signage and act like a pilot for future downtown Slow Streets.

I fully believe the business owners in the Dining District if given certainty on a longer dining district season and future year permanency ,will create an even more exciting district in coming years and make downtown Guelph a destination for locals with huge potential for tourism. I have spoken with some of them and they have amazing ideas for programming that will further add to the excitement and enjoyment of the whole downtown area. You may have already seen that many businesses inside -and outside the district- have invested in heaters for the cooler weather ahead and tents and umbrellas for rain or shade.

Praise must also be given to City Staff , especially those who have provided and maintained the amazing flower displays which are beautifying the district and are contributing to its success.

So why do we seem to be almost afraid of celebrating the success. What is the huge risk here??Our success has had other cities copying us and most of any risk will be undertaken by businesses who know what is needed to succeed if we give them the chance. I will continue to support them as the weather gets colder. In other great cities cozy blankets are the norm. We are hardy Canadians are we not?

And In conclusion praise should be given were praise is due ,and I feel it necessary to praise the vision and determination of our Mayor Cam Guthrie. Before Covid he had expressed his vision that parts of downtown be car free. Some of you may remember attending the sold out panel discussion introducing our transportation master plan update with our City chief planner and the highly respected former chief planner for Toronto ,Jennifer Keesmaat. Jennifer spoke of a similar vision for our downtown. It is ironic that the Covid pandemic has allowed us to accelerate implementation of the vision of a car free downtown with Mayor Guthrie's original motion,but more importantly It has shown us a new way to make our streets more equitable, safer, and enjoyable for all users. And during the uncertain times ahead the outdoor car free dining district and the other great patios all over Guelph may be one of the few safe activities available to help our mental and physical well being.

Please support the motions presented today

Thanks

Mike Darmon

VP Guelph Coalition for Active Transportation

Good morning

I am very much in favour of keeping the dining district. It provides a safe way for Guelphites to have a night out and provides jobs in an area that has been very impacted by the pandemic. Please please keep it open through the end of the year so that we can enjoy a beautiful Christmas market.

Thank you

Caleah Campbell

Ward 1 Resident

Come on. Winter is coming.

We need more thought and creativity on outdoor spaces.

Closing the downtown dining district is the exact opposite of what we need to be doing.

Michael Keegan

Hello City Council,

In regards to the Dining District, while I do support the use of patios, as the weather does get cooler, it would be wiser to have these patios closer to the curb to take advantage of heater lamps etc.

We need to have a lane open on MacDonnell to allow for buses to get to Guelph Central Station

The detour at first was fine in the Summer but as more people returned to work at major employers such as Linamar and students to high school and the University, the amount of missed connections at Guelph Central has increased. Transit Managers and Senior City Hall Staff (who it seems to have never ridden the bus during the pandemic) will of course say this is not true, but I have experienced it firsthand 6(!) times with dozens of others in 1 WEEK!!!. I do not like being stuck downtown for an extra 30 minutes after a 10-hour shift. Bad choice to cut the frequency of the bus... It will only get worse as the weather gets colder.

There will be more riders as the weather gets cooler plus the road conditions will get bad from weather.

We need to open the road to a transit only lane down MacDonnell Street. There should be no worry about buses being in the way every minute since it would only be twice an hour.

Thank you.

Sean 'Son Pow" Butters

Hi, writing to add my name to this list of those who think that the dining district should be extended as long as is possible, even if that means some impact on road maintenance.

Mark McCullagh

To whom it may concern, please consider extending the outdoor dining district timelines. This will give people a safe opportunity to socialize and visit our local

merchants. The ability to hold a Christmas Market will also increase business and positively support the mental health of many people who may not be able to travel and spend time with family and friends.

Respectfully,

Elaine, downtown Guelph resident

Elaine Fenner

As a local business owner, I understand the importance of trying to save jobs as the mayor says will most likely happen if the dining district is extended.

As a local citizen though, I don't want any more opportunities for large gatherings in our city. The dining district if you look online, or even the Mayor's Twitter account, is a place that seems to give people the false sense of security in not socially distancing and getting together with friends who are not from their bubbles, or even from Guelph.

The risk in keeping this going now that University is back and the kids can't have house parties inside (larger than 10 groups) they'll be looking for lots of options outside and the dining district will be it.

To try and save 100 jobs which could be kept if the restaurants stayed open and served inside, at the risk of creating an outbreak when the rest of the City is trying so hard to get by. If there is an outbreak again, our family owned Dance Studio will close again, and will lose that.

Greg Cox

Please keep Guelph downtown outdoors dining open. This simple act of maintaining the patios will help save jobs in the city core and promote public health because outdoor dining and serving reduces aerosol and droplet dispersion of Covid-19 (compared to indoor dining and serving). Plus, it makes the downtown a destination. I look forward to attending outdoor markets and restaurants on the closed streets this fall. Vehicle traffic coming south on Woolwich can easily bypass Wyndham by using Norfolk to Gordon or Wellington St.

With best regards,

Michael McBurney

Close this down on schedule today.

It is completely unfair to bless the bars on this corner while disadvantaging the other non-bar/restaurant businesses in the area. It also gives them an unfair advantage over all the other restaurants in the area.

The city should not be in the business of picking winners and losers.

Regards,

Mike Szeller

Please keep the outdoor patios open at least until Thanksgiving!

Susan Bowman

Just sending along my support of our down town restaurants in Guelph. Do what it takes to keep them thriving!!

Brad Mitchell

I do not agree in extending its date. The mayor himself has been relentlessly sharing people's stories about taking public transit from hot spots like Toronto so they could come eat a meal served to them by minimum wage employees who have no options but to be there. I have friends who work in the industry and not only is social distancing not being followed but they're being DRASTICALLY under tipped for having worked all summer in this poorly planned patio.

If it were not a pandemic I would love this idea, but it is a pandemic and people are coming from out of town and behaving in safely. Businesses that aren't the few "party town" bars have been losing out this entire time because the city chose to cater to party town, who are an out of town company with lots of money. By the way, instead of actually meaningfully engaging with the majority of downtown businesses and residents. The way the mayor has carried on with no knowledge of science, no proper trial testing or capability of backing that this patio is safe is shameful to say the least.

I hope for a project like this in the future that helps everyone downtown, not just the companies owned by chains that have actively harmed our downtown for their entire existence.

To whom it may concern,

My name is Anna Huschka and I am writing to you to beseech you to save Guelph's Downtown Dining District.

As a student at the University of Guelph, one of my main deciding points when selecting this school was the atmosphere of the campus and the town, including Downtown Guelph.

Once COVID-19 caused a province wide shut down, I was nervous about dining out again. The closing of roads and expansion of patios has allowed for businesses to keep their doors open, while maintaining peace of mind of the customers. During these trying times, I look to you to support the local businesses that rely on every single customer in order to stay open and I hope you make the right choice by maintaining the current road closure and patio expansion system.

Thanks,

Anna Huschka

Hello,

I am in full support of the dining district to be left as is for the remainder of 2020.

As a restaurant owner both inside and outside of the dining district I can say with certainty that this experiment has been an overwhelming success for all 3 of our establishments.

Baker Street Station continues to see

countless new faces as people have been exploring every corner of downtown.

We hear daily from different groups that they have not been downtown in years and many that didn't even know the Baker St. parking lot existed.

The dining district has given downtown Guelph a new lease on life. It has been hanging on by a thread for the past several years and we can finally now see some potential in the future for the growth of our businesses.

If the city decides to close the dining district, not only will we be losing staff at La Reina and Royal Electric, I guarantee revenue declines at Baker Street Station, forcing more staff layoffs.

I can not fathom that at a time like this the city would choose to push patrons inside of restaurants.

Sincerely,

Justin Corstorphine

Owner

Baker Street Station

Royal Electric

La Reina

Dear City of Guelph,

Please register my full support for an extension to the Guelph dining district so long as it remains safe for our community.

It has made important contributions in these difficult times and I am not aware of any health-related concerns.

Shoshanah Jacobs

Keep the downtown dining district open

Please

Beth Burns

Please keep the dining area of Guelph open for outdoor dining as it is so much safer than dining inside. We really don't mind driving around the area. My doctor is in Old Quebec Mall and I don't mind going around the area to park when I see her. Thank you.

Faye Hamilton

Please keep the dining district. It allows way better social distancing than indoor dining and our small businesses need it. My friends will lose their jobs. I won't be able to support these businesses if the dining district closes.

Stephanie Reynolds-Badder

Good morning,

I would like to add my support for continuing the downtown dining district. I believe this is a very valuable addition to the downtown and Guelph in general, and will continue to contribute to its vitality through this health crisis and beyond.

Thank you

Dean MacLanders

Why would Guelph close or reduce the outdoor spaces downtown.. Ridiculous that we are so behind in our thinking ... People need outdoor spaces to get out even in the cold... we do not want to be indoors...

Bianca Spatola

WE NEED OUTDOOR SPACE DURING COVID

Bianca Spatola

Good morning,

I saw that the Mayor encouraged on social media any commentary regarding the Dining District prior to the meeting today.

My opinion is that it is a complicated decision to answer while we see the number of COVID-19 cases rising. I would have liked to see the reason for the city staff not extending the district past the date as this would provide a balanced perspective versus social media (i.e. Is it related to city planning? Public health recommendation? Downtown business preference?)

Recent social media photos showing the dining district concern me. A debate ensued online over a photo regarding the lack of observed masked, lack of 2m distancing, mixing of house bubbles, encouragement of GTA visitors with this lack of precautions. Of course, this is a snapshot in time. In non-pandemic times, the promotion of tourism is important. In pandemic times, from a public health lens it is more important to promote safety, distancing, masking.

I have heard some businesses express concerns that the road restrictions make it very difficult for consumers to reach them. On the other hand, some restaurants have found the closures are a necessity to have businesses survive.

I worry about the staff that are serving patrons that remove their masks especially as the evening progresses into late night. It has been suggested that alcohol is a contributing factor to less adherence to physical distancing. The staff should not be subjected to increase risks. Given the recent CDC change on aerosol transmission of the virus, better precautions need to be ensured to keep staff safe.

If the district remained open, I believe it would be safer for staff if: it closed earlier in the evening (ex 9pm), physical distancing was adhered to, masks during not eating/drinking moments need to be maintained, patrons not seated to not be allowed to congregate closely out front as has been seen through the summer.

Additionally, asking staff their opinion on safety measures and how safe they feel would be important **prior** to extending any dining.

Finally, given the small percentage of city citizens on twitter, I do not believe it is a useful medium to conduct polls, nor allow online only submissions to a meeting that has a quick deadline during a pandemic when other options are limited to people (ex. Internet accessibility).

Thank you,

Julie G.

Good morning,

As a member of the Downtown Business Association, I am opposed to the extension of the dining districts into the winter. I think it's foolish.

Yours very truly,

Guy D.E. Farb

It has been a great experience having this option available for dinning out. As we know the many health benefits both because of Covid-19 and in-spite of it, of being outside, you will be providing the community of Guelph with the healthiest dinning experiences possible.

Thank you for considering keeping it open!

Starlene Ruttan

Please consider keeping the dining district open downtown. It is keeping people employed and giving Guelphites a safe place to gather!

Thank you,
Kristin Klein Geltink

Good morning,

Please keep the Downtown Dining District open! It keeps staff employed and keeps families enjoying our amazing downtown! Don't let this great opportunity disappear. Please consider keeping it open as long as possible!

Best

Mark Hallman.

To whom it may concern:

I strongly support the Downtown Dining District. The atmosphere, pedestrian-oriented and traffic-free environment are the leading factors that make the District so enjoyable. I would like to see the district continue.

Thank you,

Noya Martin

Guelph resident

To whom it may concern.

Please do not close the on street patio downtown Guelph. Business are struggling dealing with a pandemic and will need every penny they can make before the winter hits. It is absolutely ridiculous you would shut down their patios early knowing there are going to have a lot of struggle with their businesses ahead.

Thanks,

Manni Kambo

Hello,

Wanted to send an email in SUPPORT of keeping the downtown dining district OPEN through the end of the year. I feel like I have a unique position: while in theory I think it's safe and respect anyone who chooses to visit, I personally haven't, and

probably won't because visiting my grandmother with a myriad of health concerns is my #1 priority so I am mitigating any risk. BUT, I think it is a wonderful addition to our city and our downtown; it has allowed us to be an example to small towns through the province/country of how to pivot in a crisis and rejuvenate downtown. I sincerely hope this project remains through the next 3 months and will be a permanent staple downtown for summer months in the future.

Allison Bridgman

Hello,

Thank you for taking my call for support of extending the Dining District AND patio extensions for all other food businesses in downtown Guelph.

The obvious fact is that an extension would not only save 100 direct jobs of those in hospitality but would greatly benefit adjunct businesses like Taste Detours who will be further deeply impacted by closures if restaurants could not survive cold weather / indoor limits on patronage. Slim margins for restaurants render it impossible for many of them to have only 50% capacity indoors.

Some cannot open at all due to size.

Some cannot pivot with to go /take out due to staffing limitations.

We cannot continue celebrating Guelph and the stories of the food people and places to locals and visitors alike if they are not open. We have shown Guelph off to over 1700 people thus far and want to continue on this path.

This business shut right down during Covid and we are slowly and safely making our way back. Support of this would allow the 5 year-old Taste Detours to at least attempt to make a go of it for the rest of 2020 and into 2021. Otherwise, we will expire.

Thank you,

Lynn Broughton

Founder, Taste Detours

I am writing as an interested citizen, member of the Mayor's taskforce on economic renewal, and as an expert in hospitality and tourism - in unqualified support of the extension of Guelph's dining district into the fall, it's expansion in terms of location, and establishing a "Guelph Christmas Market" in the same vicinity.

The question for me isn't "should we?", but "how should we?", in order to maximize the considerable benefits and minimize any potential drawbacks, including logistical considerations. With the latter in mind, I specifically recommend the immediate establishment of a multi-stakeholder committee charged with developing a concrete plan of action, reporting to the mayor on its progress and any specific recommendations that might require council's approval.

There is no question that many sectors within the hospitality and tourism industry have been decimated from Covid-19, due to both travel restrictions and consumer fear of travel. As an employer of one in ten people around the world, including a disproportionate number of women and youth, the downturn has impacted not only business owners, but also employees who depend on it for their livelihoods and "first jobs". Its survival is essential to our social fabric, including the survival of "main street" - the two are inextricably linked.

Amidst the collapse, there are some bright spots. Local tourism (day trips) is expected to continue to grow over the coming year, as people hungry for an "experience" venture out. Outdoor venues are expected to continue to receive a disproportionate amount of the economic activity. Guelph has had considerable success with its first steps towards establishing a "restaurant district". It is time to capitalize and take things to the next level. It's time to be creative and bold. We have the opportunity to significantly enhance Guelph's reputation as an amazing place to live and visit.

Imagine a winter scene with Christmas lights and carolers and children's choirs (collecting food for social service agencies), outdoor firepits or heaters, ice sculptures and snow men (created as part of a contest), and skating at City Hall. Imagine the conversion of Guelph's hiking trails into cross country skiing trails, bringing customers into the City Centre, along with those who parked in our new parking garage, are excited to shop at outdoor stalls and food trucks (as well as in downtown stores), for Christmas presents and food, eating on patios with blankets and hot drinks - this could be downtown Guelph this winter.

We have the opportunity to build on Guelph's growing reputation for community and local food, to become a destination of choice for winter day trips, and to ensure the vitality of our downtown for years to come.

I urge you to vote "yes" for Guelph and this proposal.

Julia Christensen Hughes

Guelph City Council,

While I support the Dining District in principle, there are concerns regarding Public Transit in and around the District.

I have seen nowhere in any of the debate or has been addressed that the Dining District has massively disrupted transit routes. Nearly all of them pass through that intersection, and whether the DD is temporary permanent, that point must be addressed.

1. What has been the operation impact of the DD on Guelph Transit?
2. As we start to enter fall and winter weather, there is a typically an increase in ridership. Does Guelph Transit believe it can maintain the already reduced schedules without missing connections through an extended detour around the DD?
3. Is there a way to provide a one way, transit only lane into OR out of Guelph Central Station through the intersection along Macdonnell Street for select routes such as the highly used 99 Mainline?

In some cities, they only have patios in the parking spots on the side while allowing some local traffic, including Transit.

There is definitely a solution available to keep Wyndham Street pedestrian and bike friendly while allowing buses along Macdonell and still having a pedestrian and bicycle lane there as well.

Please consider these in your debate today.

Thank you.

Steven Petric

Hello, I'm a 32 year old software developer living and working in Guelph. This summer, I biked downtown to eat outside most days of the week. Guelph is a town with character and the dining district suits us well. There are plenty of other nearby towns (Cambridge, KW, Mississauga) where people can live if they want a sterile town full of chain restaurants and corporations. There was a time when Guelph fought hard to keep our businesses privately owned and local (and now we are shamefully celebrating adding a Dennies). It's not too late to get our character back. Keep this dining district open! Make it permanent for years to come! Support local businesses! Keep corporations OUT! We don't need to be funnelling Guelph dollars into the pockets of billionaires. Thank you very much for reading and considering my words.

Jonathan Bourdeau

City Counsellors,

Should you decide to shut down the dining district I will have to lay off 12 staff. Kitchen staff, servers, hosts and bartenders; most of which are students that need this job to pay their way through university.

Why would you force us to have people dine inside as COVID numbers increase?

If we lose this patio La Reina will be in jeopardy of closing over winter.

Do the right thing, allow people to continue to social distend outside on the patios.

Bryan Steele - Owner Operator - La Reina